

We claim:

1. A system for handling an adhesive coated sheet media, comprising:

a feeder for the sheet media;

an activation device for releasing an encapsulated adhesive as sheet media is moved past the activation device by the feeder; and

a release liner device for laminating with at least one adhesive side of the sheet media and transporting the sheet media through a travel path.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the activation device is an activator blade past adjacent the travel path, the activator blade being fixed in position relative to the travel path.

3. The system according to claim 2, further comprising a support surface adjacent the activator blade, the travel path passing between the activator blade and the support surface.

4. The system according to claim 2, wherein the support surface is a roller.

5. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a cutter for cutting the sheet media; and

a label applicator, the label applicator being downstream from the cutter.

6. The system according to claim 2, wherein the activator blade extends across at least half of a widthwise direction of the sheet media.

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7. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the blade is at a fixed angle relative to the travel path.

8. The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the fixed angle is an acute angle between the activator blade and an upstream position of the sheet media.

9. The system as recited in claim 5, further comprising a printer for placing indicia on the sheet material, the activation device being located between the printer and the cutter.

10. The system as recited in claim 2, further comprising a printer, the printer being located downstream of the activation device and being adjacent to the travel path.

11. The system as recited in claim 2, further comprising a printer, the printer being located upstream of the activation device and being adjacent to the travel path.

12. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the activation device is at least one crushing roller for rupturing and thereby releasing the encapsulated media.

13. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein the activation device further includes an activator blade past which the feeder moves the sheet media along a travel path, the activator blade being fixed in position relative to the path of the sheet media.

14. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the activation device includes a plurality of rollers movable relative to an axle, wherein the rollers non-simultaneously contact the sheet media whereby different portions of the sheet media in a widthwise direction thereof are engaged by the rollers.

15. The system as recited in claim 14, further comprising a plurality of spacers, the spacers being located between the rollers.

16. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein at least some of the rollers have flared edges which overlies an adjacent spacer.

17. The system according to claim 1, wherein the release liner device is an endless belt.

18. The system according to claim 1, wherein the release liner device is at least one roll of releasable sheet media.

19. The system according to claim 1, wherein the release liner device includes at least one surface having a releasable, non-stick surface.

20. The system according to claim 20, wherein the travel path includes a process device, said process device including a printer assembly, a die cutting assembly or a label activation assembly in a position opposed to said release liner device, said travel path for said sheet media

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passing between said process device and said release liner device.

21. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a stripper plate downstream of said release liner device with respect to said travel path.

22. A method for transporting a sheet media having an at least one adhesive side, comprising the steps of:

providing a sheet media having the at least one adhesive side;

feeding the sheet media along a travel path;

passing the sheet media against an activation device;

rupturing the encapsulated adhesive as the sheet media moves past the activation device;

laminating the at least one adhesive side of the sheet media with a release liner device; and

transporting the sheet media to a subsequent process step with said release liner device.

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein said release liner device is an endless belt.

24. The method according to claim 22, wherein said release liner device is a roll of releasable sheet media.

25. The method according to claim 22, wherein the activation device includes an activator blade and wherein the method further comprises the step of spreading the adhesive after rupture thereof with the activator blade.

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26. The method according to claim 25, wherein the activation device further comprises at least one crushing roller, the crushing roller being located upstream from the activator blade and wherein the method further comprises the step of sequentially engaging the sheet media with the at least one crushing roller and the activator blade.

27. The method according to claim 26, wherein the step of feeding the sheet media moves the sheet media at a first speed and the method further comprises the step of moving the at least one crushing roller at a second speed, the first speed being different from the second speed.

28. The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the activation device includes at least one crushing roller, the method further comprises the step of rotating the at least one crushing roller about an axis.

29. The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising the step of printing indicia on the sheet media.

30. The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising the step of using sheet media with indicia printed on at least one surface thereof.

FOOTNOTES

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